

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Crim. Action No.: 2:20-CR-34
(Judge KleeH)

JOSHUA ALLEN HINKLE,

Defendant.

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 78],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

On July 19, 2021, the Defendant, Joshua Allen Hinkle ("Hinkle"), appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Michael J. Aloia and moved for permission to enter a plea of **GUILTY** to Count One of the Indictment, charging him with Conspiracy to Distribute at Least Forty Grams of Fentanyl, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 846 and 841(b)(1)(B)(vi). Hinkle stated that he understood that the magistrate judge is not a United States District Judge, and Hinkle consented to pleading before the magistrate judge. This Court referred Hinkle's plea of guilty to the magistrate judge for the purpose of administering the allocution, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, making a finding as to whether the plea was knowingly and voluntarily entered, and recommending to this Court whether the plea should be accepted.

USA v. HINKLE

2:20-CR-34

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 78],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

Based upon Hinkle's statements during the plea hearing, and the Government's proffer establishing that an independent factual basis for the plea existed, the magistrate judge found that Hinkle was competent to enter a plea, that the plea was freely and voluntarily given, that Hinkle was aware of the nature of the charges against him and the consequences of his plea, and that a factual basis existed for the tendered plea. The magistrate judge issued a *Report and Recommendation Concerning Plea of Guilty in Felony Case* ("R&R") [Dkt. No. 78] finding a factual basis for the plea and recommending that this Court accept Hinkle's plea of guilty to Count One of the Indictment.

The magistrate judge **released** Defendant on the terms of the Order Setting Conditions of Release. [Dkt. No. 42].

The magistrate judge also directed the parties to file any written objections to the R&R within fourteen (14) days after service of the R&R. He further advised that failure to file objections would result in a waiver of the right to appeal from a judgment of this Court based on the R&R. Neither Hinkle nor the Government filed objections to the R&R.

Accordingly, this Court **ADOPTS** the magistrate judge's R&R [Dkt. No. 78], provisionally **ACCEPTS** Hinkle's guilty plea, and

USA v. HINKLE

2:20-CR-34

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 78],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

ADJUDGES him **GUILTY** of the crime charged in Count One of the Indictment.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(3) and U.S.S.G. § 6B1.1(c), the Court **DEFERS** acceptance of the proposed plea agreement until it has received and reviewed the presentence investigation report prepared in this matter.

Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 6A1 et seq., the Court **ORDERS** the following:

1. The Probation Officer shall undertake a presentence investigation of Hinkle, and prepare a presentence investigation report for the Court;

2. The Government and Hinkle shall each provide their narrative descriptions of the offense to the Probation Officer by **August 13, 2021**;

3. The presentence investigation report shall be disclosed to Hinkle, his counsel, and the Government on or before **October 12, 2021**; however, the Probation Officer shall not disclose any sentencing recommendations made pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32(e)(3);

4. Counsel may file written objections to the presentence investigation report on or before **October 26, 2021**;

USA v. HINKLE

2:20-CR-34

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 78],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

5. The Office of Probation shall submit the presentence investigation report with addendum to the Court on or before **November 9, 2021**; and

6. Counsel may file any written sentencing memorandum or statements and motions for departure from the Sentencing Guidelines, including the factual basis for the same, on or before **November 15, 2021**.

The Court further **ORDERS** that prior to sentencing, counsel for Defendant review with him the revised Standard Probation and Supervised Release Conditions adopted by this Court on November 29, 2016, pursuant to the standing order entered by Chief Judge Groh, In Re: Revised Standard Probation and Supervised Release Conditions, 3:16-MC-56.

The Court will conduct the **Sentencing Hearing** for Hinkle on **December 2, 2021**, at **2:00 p.m.**, at the **Elkins, West Virginia** point of holding court. If counsel anticipates having multiple witnesses or an otherwise lengthy sentencing hearing, please notify the Judge's chamber staff so that an adequate amount of time can be scheduled.

It is so **ORDERED**.

USA v. HINKLE

2:20-CR-34

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 78],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

The Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Order to
counsel of record and all appropriate agencies.

DATED: August 5, 2021

/s/ Thomas S. Kleeh
THOMAS S. KLEEH
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE